

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Prior Application: K. MABUCHI et al
 Serial No. 09/378,768
 Filed: August 23, 1999

Group Art Unit: 1741
 Examiner: E. Smith-Hicks
 For: A STEEL STRIP DESCALING APPARATUS
 AND A STEEL STRIP MANUFACTURING
 APPARATUS USING THE DESCALING
 APPARATUS

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
 Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Page 1, before the first line of the specification please insert the sentence --*See Amend A* This is a divisional application of U.S. Serial No. 09/378,768 filed August 23, 1999.--.

Page 1, first full paragraph (lines 3 and 4), replace the paragraph as follows:

B' The present invention relates to a steel strip descaling apparatus and a steel strip manufacturing apparatus using the descaling apparatus.

09/378,768-10404